

## Murray, Californian Meteor, Gets First Rank in Tennis

Committee Points Out That Tilden Is Right on the Heels of First Choice and the Two Stars Are Bracketed; Miss Bjurstedt Leads the Women

By Fred Hawthorne

There will be few to quarrel with the action of the ranking committee of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association in placing Robert Lindley Murray, formerly of California and now of Niagara Falls, N. Y., at the head of the "first ten" players in the United States for the season of 1918.

The California "Meteor" has been known as one of the truly great players of the country for the last two or three years, and last September, in the final round of the national singles tourney, against William T. Tilden, 2nd of Philadelphia, he flashed a game that appeared invincible. For four years Murray has been knocking at the very doors of lawn tennis fame, and now that he has achieved the seats of the mighty, there will be none to begrudge the splendid young sportsman his high honors.

The report of the committee, which was made public yesterday, brackets Murray and Tilden in the same class, No. 1, it being pointed out that "the difference between their records is so slight that the committee did not separate them."

The players who follow Murray and Tilden in the "first ten" by classes, are:

Class No. 2 (3), E. B. Alexander; Class No. 3 (4), Walter Merrill Hall; (5), Walter T. Hayes, (6), Nathaniel W. Niles; Class No. 4 (7), Ichijima Kumagae; (8) Charles S. Garland; (9) S. Howard Voshell; (10) Theodore R. Pell.

### Basford Committee Head

The ranking committee was composed of Abraham Basford, jr., chairman; Paul W. Gibbons, Harry C. Johnson, Conrad B. Doyle and Walter T. Hayes, and a total of 124 players was ranked. The committee evidently performed its arduous labors with great conscientiousness and attention to detail.

Mr. Basford worked out a scheme for estimating the mathematical value of all matches played in sanctioned tournaments, based on the law of averages, which gave the committee a remarkably accurate method for checking its judgment of the players' performances.

The committee sets up the claim that by this procedure it is possible to figure averages in decimals, so positions are assigned based on ratings of actual performance, and not on conjecture or opinion. At the request of the California Association, Pacific Coast players who did not take part in Eastern tournaments were omitted.

Mr. Gibbons filed a minority report with the executive committee, contending that Tilden should be placed at No. 1. In all other respects the findings were unanimous.

Simultaneously with the report of the man's ranking committee, composed of Mrs. William H. Pouch, Miss Edith B. Hardy and Mrs. B. E. Cole, submitted its report, ranking the women in the "first ten" as follows: Mrs. Molla Bjurstedt, Mrs. George W. Wightman, Miss Eleanor Gore, Mrs. H. Stuart Green, Miss Marie Wagner, Miss Carrie Neely, Miss Helene Pollak, Miss Clara Cassel, Miss Eleanor Sears, Miss Jack Ramson (Adelaide Yeager), Los Angeles, in that order.

### Some Exceptions Taken

Taking them as a whole, we have little fault to find with the reports of the two committees, but in one or two instances, according to our own personal viewpoint, which must, perforce, appear inconsequential in comparison with that of the committees, we are bound to take exception.

In the Tribune of Sunday, September 15, we printed a list of those players whom we believed were entitled to rank among the "first ten." Among them were Murray, Alexander, Hall, Voshell, Niles, Hayes, Burdick, Pell and Kumagae.

Garland was not given a ranking by us for the reason that we did not believe he had played in a sufficient number of important tournaments, although we recognized his worth as a player. Ralph Burdick was placed at No. 8, whereas the committee has placed him at No. 11, in Class 5.

It will be observed that there is no glaring discrepancy of opinion in the two lists, and we rather expected the placing of Murray officially in the No. 1 position, because of the precedent that has heretofore placed the national champion in the first place, but we cannot agree with the committee's decision.

We have rehearsed our reasons at length before this for naming Tilden to hold the first place among our players, and we do not intend to burden our readers with our views again, except to say that we do not see the consistency of reasoning that places Murray, playing in a very limited number of tournaments, ahead of Tilden, whose court activity was unusual all season, and whose lone defeat was at the hands of Murray, who himself was vanquished by Tilden earlier in the season.

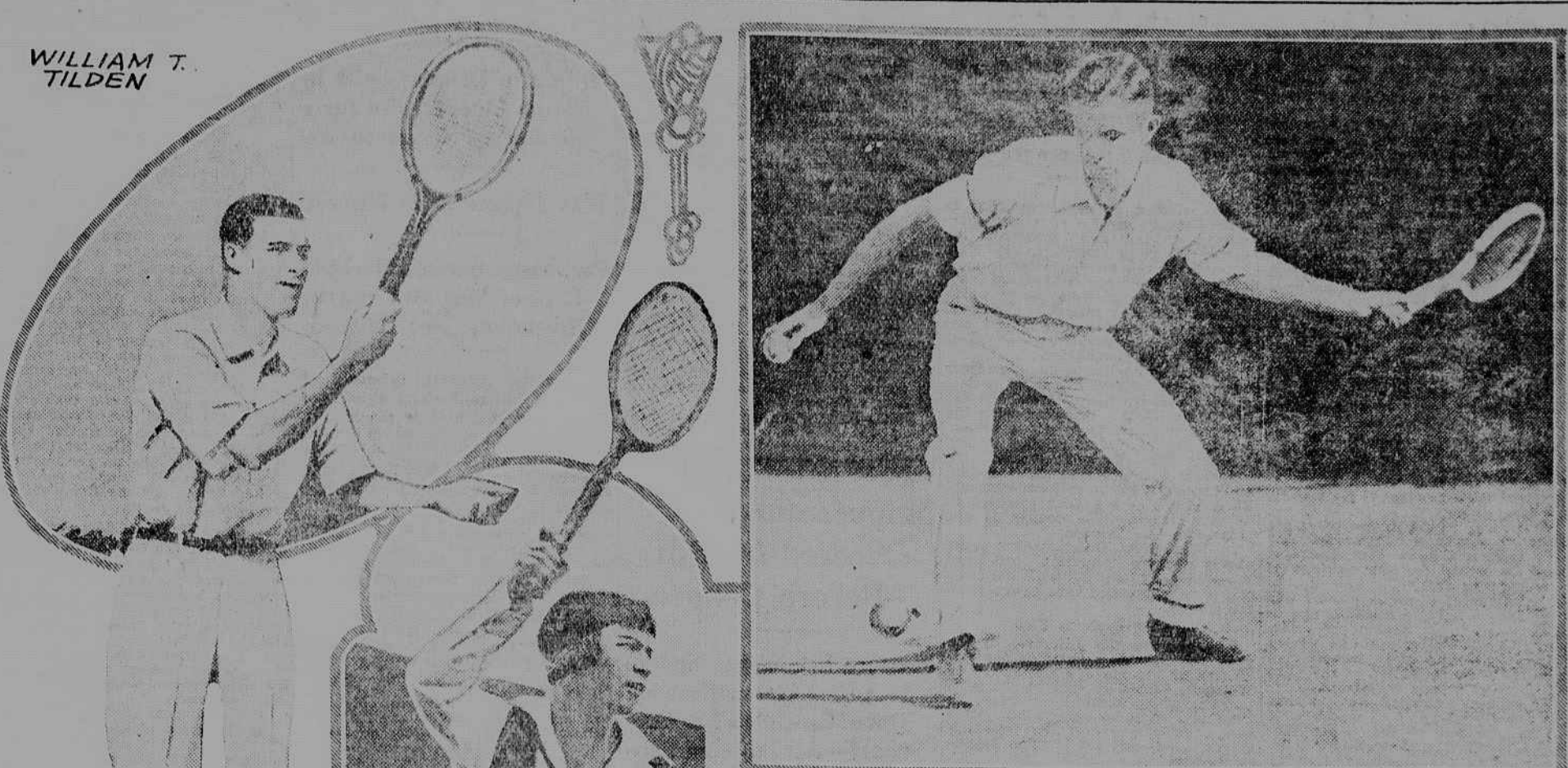
### Younger Element Advancing

Kumagae, placed at No. 7 by the committee, seems fortunate indeed to be so well up in the list, since the latter part of his season on the courts was not particularly successful. It is interesting to note that Vincent Richards, the sixteen-year-old marvel and holder, with Tilden, of the national doubles title, is placed No. 22 in the list, along with Elliott H. Binzen, No. 20, title in a striking instance of the manner in which the younger element is forcing its way toward the top.

There will be none to even remotely question the right of Miss Bjurstedt to rank as the first woman player in the land; in fact, there was no other player who even remotely approached her brilliant record of tournament victories, which included the following: Pelham, Ardley, Metropolitan, Longwood, Western Pennsylvania, Great Lakes, New Jersey, Heights Casino indoor, national outdoor and women's national championship, challenge round.

Where, in the long history of the game, has such a remarkable series of triumphs ever been surpassed? What a battle would have resulted for first place among the women had Miss Mary K. Browne and Mrs. Thomas C. Bunby, both of California and both former holders of the national title, been able to play through the series.

## Four Racquet Wielders Who Occupy Top Perch Among Court Stars



WILLIAM T. TILDEN

LINDLEY MURRAY

### Otto L. Fritsch And John Magee On Camp's Staff

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 21.—Walter Camp, navy commissioner of athletics, to-day announced the appointment of John J. Magee as athletic director in the Maine and New Hampshire naval stations, and of Otto L. Fritsch to a similar position in the station at San Pedro, Cal. Both men will immediately assume their new duties.

The stations included in the district assigned to Magee are Portsmouth, Bar Harbor, Rockland and Machias, Me., and Portsmouth, N. H. These have hitherto been included in the Eastern district and were under the supervision of George V. Brown, who will now take charge of the Massachusetts stations exclusively, the most active and exacting in their athletic organization of any in the country.

Mr. Brown is arranging for Boston some time in February the largest army-navy carnival of the winter season.

Mr. Magee, who has just been appointed to direct the Maine and New Hampshire stations, has been athletic coach at Bowdoin College for several years, and is regarded as one of the best athletic organizers and trainers of athletes in the country. He was formerly prominent in athletic matters in Boston.

Fritsch has been for several years one of the leading football coaches and athletic directors on the Pacific Slope, especially in Southern California, where he has directed athletics in several schools and colleges.

He has been abroad in service in France for the Y. M. C. A. and returned last summer to recuperate from the strain of trench activity. During the last fall he has been a member of the faculty of the Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. College, giving instruction in games and recreational sports as developed since the opening of the war and peculiarly adapted to military training and to mass athletic work. Both men will give their attention to organizing winter athletic sports in the stations under their control. No athletic director has hitherto been appointed at San Pedro.

### Rival Uniforms Seem Jinx to Major Clubs

One way a team could be assured of a victory in every sport is to trip over its own feet. The jinx of uniforms seems to be a sure thing. The St. Louis Cardinals lost their baggage and had to meet the Superbas in clothing which Charles H. Ebbets had laid out. The result was a 9 to 2 victory for Jack Hendrick's team.

Three years previously the St. Louis Browns reached Detroit minus uniforms. They were in Tiger skins, they defeated the Juggernaut 1 to 0. Well, man pitching against Dauss. That was the year Lengthy Carl won eight out of ten games from the Tigers, the contests he did not capture, being, respectively a defeat and a tie.

A game which a visiting team did not win when it was compelled to play in the home club's regalia because of the non-arrival of its baggage, took place at the Hilltop, in New York, on August 12, 1912. The Tigers and their baggage parted company at Syracuse and the Yankees, who were in the Yanks' road uniforms, being beaten, 4 to 2.

This reverse might not have occurred had it not been for Empire Jack Egan. He put Jack Fisher out of the game in the first inning, when the Tigers had located the collegian for a couple of runs, and Jack Warhop, who took command of the pitching peak, was so good that he yielded only to safeties and scored only twenty-four men to go to bat.

NEW YORK Fandom is bubbling over with enthusiasm. Never before at this dull stage of the sporting season has so much baseball talk been heard. And all because of the gigantic deal engineered with Boston by Colonel Jacob Ruppert, president of the Yankees, and Miller Huggins, the manager.

Since they came into baseball Colonels Ruppert and Huston have been most generous in support of the men who conducted the destiny of their club on the playing field. They spent lavishly, but, alas, not always too wisely. It was purely because of poor advice to men not in close touch with the situation.

New York is far too rich a baseball territory to waste in the experimental processes of developing stars. McGraw grasped the idea years ago. His stars he goes out and snatches ready made. The result has been double the number of National League pennants in the last ten years that fell to any rival club. The scheme, while costly, has returned a rich harvest on Giant investments.

The New Yankee regime promises much. Already in Outfielder Duffy Lewis and Pitchers Dutch Leonard and Ernie Shore three great stars and three fine gate attractions have been added to the New York Americans.

That others will follow before the opening of the season is a surety if money possesses its reputed mystic charm. Colonel Ruppert's heart is set on a pennant and a world's championship. The colonel generally gets what he desires.

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## Plan Big Revival Of Sports Next Year in England

LONDON, Dec. 21.—With the great war at an end, sporting events in England will be revived and resumed with no loss of time, a special feature being the resumption of all outside sports on the lines of pre-war days.

Horse racing will soon be in full swing again, steeplechase meetings having been arranged next month at Manchester, Wolverhampton, Gatwick, Sandown Park and Windsor.

The county cricket programme will get under way in May, and although many well known faces will be missing, no lack of enthusiasm will be shown in the race for championship honors. Not a single first class game has been played since August, 1914.

The announcement that the open championship will be resumed next summer has stirred up intense interest in golfing circles.

Flat racing will enjoy a veritable boom. All the famous classics will be run off on their original courses.

International soccer will be resumed in the new year, the English Football Association having sanctioned representative games against Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

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### Young Tennis Stars Start Winter Play Here To-morrow

THE youthful masculine lawn tennis players of the metropolitan district will start the winter season on the indoor courts to-morrow morning at the 7th Regiment indoor junior and boys' tournaments begin. E. H. Hendrickson is the present junior champion, and Cecil Donaldson is holder of the boys' title. Vincent Richards, national boy champion on turf courts, and Harold L. Taylor, junior champion, are entered.

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## Tommy Murphy And Walt Cox Fortify Stables

Much Expected of Constantine the Great and McGregor the Great

By Frank S. Cooke

At this season of the year, when the votary of the sport of the sulky has other things to think of and racing days are afar, the most interesting topic is the recruiting of equine talent by the topnotch drivers, who ever are on the lookout for something that will take them to the front of the herd.

Stables which have migrated to the Southland are pretty fairly defined, while those in the North are being whipped into shape, some of the former pupils going to other schools and their places taken by steeds which give promise of superiority.

Lining up the best prospects is just as much a part of the scheme of cleverness as training and later driving them to victory. Thomas H. Murphy was the busiest man in the whole kit during the weeks of mile-track racing, but he does not let it go to his head, on the contrary, he makes an all-year job of his profession.

Murphy's Eyes Always Open

Murphy's eyes are always open, and in view of the fact that his resources are almost unlimited when it comes to buying a horse on which he sets his mind, his sources of information are perhaps wider than those of any driver, unless the exception be Walter R. Cox, who also dances a rotary handrail.

Since they trotted at Lexington in October, Murphy has been picking out what appear to him to be good things for next year. One, for which he is reported to have paid \$10,000, is the bay stallion Constantine the Great, by Azoff, a son of Peter the Great, dam Cynice, by Nutwood.

This horse is six years old, and last summer won in 2:07 1/2 at Indianapolis, won a race at South Bend, and then took a record of 2:06 3/4 at Lexington, where the deal that resulted in his sale started.

It is the belief of horsemen who wear Indianapolis, where Levi Turner put the finishing touch on his education, that Constantine the Great, in spite of an unwieldy name, is destined to be one of the star trotters of 1919. His sire, Azoff, won a heat in 2:14 1/2, as a two-year-old with so little work that for an accident he probably would have been one of the front row Peter trotters.

Another new one in the Murphy stable is a yearling, a bay, by Captain Aubrey, also a son of Peter the Great, dam Panic, jr. This mare is a prime favorite in the West, as she won ten races, never beaten, and has a splendid ability to step a half-mile ring in 2:10.

Cox Bolsters Stable

Meanwhile, Cox has been augmenting his stable, and it is reported that he paid \$10,000 for McGregor the Great, a son of Peter the Great and Ruth McGregor, 2:07 1/2, that participated in some good races along the big line in 1912 for Lon McDonald and next year for Murphy.

McGregor the Great is a three-year-old and was raced over some half-mile tracks, then taken to Lexington and given his record of 2:08 3/4, which showed him to be a prospect worth while. Naturally he attracted Cox, who has had such rare luck with Peter the Greats, his mainstays in recent years having been Mabel Trask, Busy's Lassie, Marguerite, Jackson Girl and Peter Scott, which horse he developed, and then advised the owner to take Murphy's check for a trainer to do when he thinks he is going to can win the stakes.

Cox is having to give Sayde Densmore, 2:02, a trout next season. She was about the fastest thing in the West in 1915, and of late has been down to earth. They think she will regain her old-time form, in which event Cox will be riding among the front pacers.

Reports from men who are to the effect that "Pop" Geers will be out with a good stable next year. Several newcomers have been taking their lessons, and one of the latest recruits is The Triumphant, a five-year-old, a General Exponent, that has sired a lot of speed in Illinois.

Lon McDonald also is picking up a few and as usual wintering at Indianapolis. He is to add what he can do with Bon Watts, 2:12 1/4, by General Watts, that raced well over the half-mile tracks in the Middle West.

Valentine Has Ben Billings

Charley Valentine, the Ohio trainer, will see what he can make out of Ben Billings, 2:05 1/4, a pacer of royal lineage, but of no more of a disposition. He is owned by Dr. Buchner, of Youngstown, also owner of Wilkes Brewer, and was to have gone to the Chicago sale, but was withdrawn at the last minute with the intention of giving him one more chance, and this time in the hands of a man who has no fear in training and driving a pacer.

Another one that Geers will take to the ring is a makes good use of the name of the Walnut Hill stallion, Nevada. He had ahead full of promises when he reached Cleveland last spring, but Nuckols won him over, gave him a man of 2:08 1/4, an advance on the owner to ship him to Geers, believing that with his great flight of speed he is the sort that will make good for the grand old man.

It is rumored that the class in the Transylvania is to be moved down to 2:05, which will let in all of this year's field, excepting the winner, Brinland, 2:03 1/4. And to this bunch of fast trotters may be added a number that did not start but raced in 2:06 or better rather frequently.

Australian Boxing Is at Standstill

Boxing in Australia has been practically abolished, according to Reginald L. (Snowy) Baker, leading fighter of the Antipodes. The Australian promoter of the Antipodes, the few countrymen gave their undivided attention to winning the war, and until this task was completed, scant attention was given to the ring sport.

With the exception of a few matches of little consequence there is no promotion in Australia now, and most of the arenas where bouts formerly were held are being utilized as storerooms for war supplies. A request of the government that all boxing arenas be closed out of deference to the volunteer system was promptly complied with.

At Sidney, where Tommy Burns and Jack Johnson fought for the heavyweight championship years ago, the arena has been closed out of boxing for some time past. It was used exclusively for recruiting and other patriotic purposes. The same was true of the Melbourne stadium.

Brewers After Bridwell

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## Twenty Greatest Net Stars

- | Men                       | Women                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Class 1                   | 1—Miss Molla Bjurstedt.    |
| 1—Robert Lindley Murray.  | 2—Mrs. George W. Wightman. |
| 2—William T. Tilden, 2d.  | 3—Miss Eleanor Gore.       |
| Class 2                   | 4—Mrs. H. Stuart Green.    |
| 3—Frederick B. Alexander. | 5—Miss Marie Wagner.       |
| Class 3                   | 6—Miss Carrie Neely.       |
| 4—Walter Merrill Hall.    | 7—Miss Helene Pollak.      |
| 5—Walter T. Hayes.        | 8—Miss Clara Cassel.       |
| 6—Nathaniel W. Niles.     |                            |